

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 914

By Ketron

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize the 35th Annual Uncle Dave Macon Days Festival in Murfreesboro.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pay tribute to those events that promote local arts, entertain and educate our citizens, and celebrate the history and culture of the great State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the 35th Annual Uncle Dave Macon Days Festival of Murfreesboro is one such notable event that will be taking place July 13-15, 2012, at the Historic Cannonsburgh Pioneer Village, one of the few remaining 1976 United States Bicentennial Projects still in use; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 1978, the festival was named for David Harrison "Uncle Dave" Macon, also known as "The Dixie Dewdrop", a master banjo player and entertainer, who was considered one of the first Grand Ole Opry superstars, performed up until his death in 1952, and was inducted to the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1966; and

WHEREAS, the fun and family-oriented event has been selected as one of the Top-20 July Tourism Events in the Southeast by the Southeast Tourism Society and Top-100 Events in North America by the American Bus Association; and

WHEREAS, an essential feature in the history and culture of Rutherford County, it benefits greatly from more than 500 volunteers from organizations, like the Rotary, Lions, Kiwanis, Domestic Violence, and Boy Scouts, attracts between 25,000 and 30,000 visitors, and generates more than \$2 million in revenue, according to the Rutherford County Convention and Visitor's Bureau; and

WHEREAS, the Uncle Dave Macon Days Festival boasts many honors and awards, including the designation as “Home of Three National Championships in Banjo, Clogging and Buckdancing” by the United States House of Representatives in 1986; and

WHEREAS, living up to its reputation for bluegrass and country music, the festival will be presenting the Heritage Award to Grand Ole Opry member Mike Snider and the Trailblazer Award to banjo-picker J.D. Crowe in recognition of their dedication to the promotion and perpetuation of traditional Southern music; and

WHEREAS, emceed by Bill Knowlton, radio personality and host of the popular public radio “Bluegrass Ramble”, the event offers a variety of activities, such as a juried arts and crafts show, living history demonstrations, a historic photo display, a nostalgic “motorless parade” of horse- and mule-drawn wagons, gospel singing in the historic Cannonsburgh Chapel, and plenty of fun for the children; and

WHEREAS, the festival is located on the “Jack Trail”, one of sixteen self-guided driving tours that are part of the State of Tennessee Tourism’s 2011-launched Discover Tennessee Trails and Byways program; and

WHEREAS, proudly maintaining and promoting a celebration of Southern culture and history for thirty-five successful years, the Uncle Dave Macon Days Festival of Murfreesboro is truly deserving of our recognition; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and recognize the 35th Annual Uncle Dave Macon Days Festival, occurring July 13-15, 2012, in Murfreesboro, and encourage all Tennesseans to participate in this exciting celebration of our unique Southern heritage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.